

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected as being anticipated by Shi (US 20030034174, now US Patent 6,717,067). Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested on the following basis. As recited in the written description (see paragraphs 0004, 0005, 0021 and 0025, for example) an important feature of the disclosed invention is the provision of a layer (foil) **30, 32** with a channel **54** formed therein. The channels define the connector area and operate to prevent bonding materials from bleeding or flowing into the connector areas **20** and to permit removal of layer/foil **30, 32** in a subsequent manufacturing step. As such every claims requires a layer with a channel. See independent claims 1, 7 and 13. Nowhere does Shi disclose the provision of a layer having a channel. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Shi cannot serve as section 102 prior art. Reconsideration of the rejections lodged against Claims 1-3 is therefore requested.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

Claims 4-12 stand rejected as being obvious in view of Shi, either singularly or in combination with other references. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested on the basis set forth above and in view of the fact that none of the references recite or suggest, either alone or through their combination with other references, the provision of a layer with a connector-area defining channel. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not serve as section 103 prior art. Reconsideration of the rejections lodged against Claims 4-12 is therefore requested.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended Claims 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10. These amendments are not made in view of the rejections lodged by the Examiner in the Office Action dated October 28, 2008. Instead, the amendments are made to correct spelling errors ("assemblys") and more accurately describe the invention. The amendments do not introduce new matter. Exemplary support for the amendments is found in paragraphs 0004 and 0021.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present Application is in condition for allowance. The Patent Office is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions with respect to the present Application.

Provisional Petition for Extension of Time

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Gallop, Johnson & Neuman, L.C., Deposit Account No. 501846.

Respectfully submitted,

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